ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of parallel data rate setting for first and second modem pools, each modem pool including a plurality of modems, where each modem in one of the modem pools is paired with a corresponding modem in the other of the modem pools, including

5   setting substantially in parallel each of the modem pairs to an initial data rate, for each of the modem pairs, performing the following steps one or more times until a termination condition is met: if the modem pair is synchronized within a synchronization time period, increasing the modem pair's data rate, if the modem pair is not synchronized within the synchronization time period, decreasing the modem pair's data rate, and

10 setting each of the modem pairs to the highest data rate at which the modem pair achieved synchronization.